

SECTION XI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. MULTIPLE BIRTHS

As shown in Figure 46, women 40 years of age and older have a consistently higher percentage of multiple births than all other age groups from 1997 to 2001. The higher percentage of multiple births may be partially due to the greater proportion of women treated for infertility in this age group, as has been previously shown for other populations.

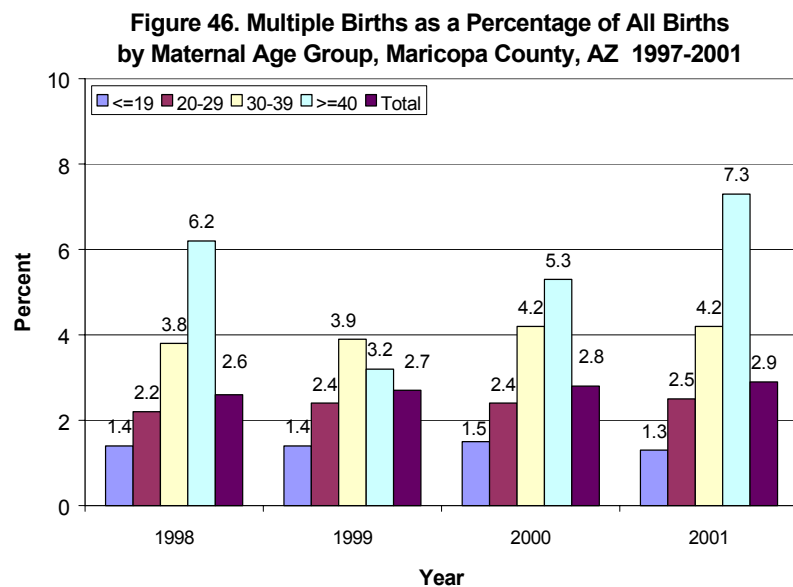
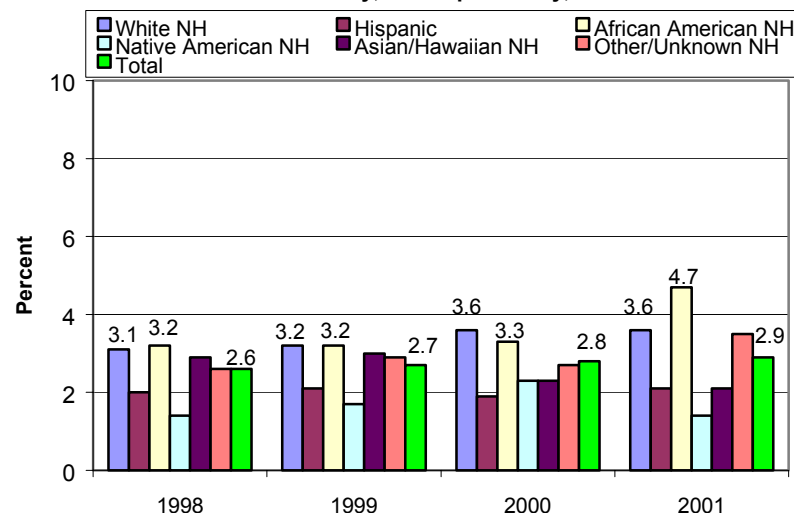


Figure 47. Multiple Births as a Percentage of All Births by Maternal Race/Ethnicity, Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2001

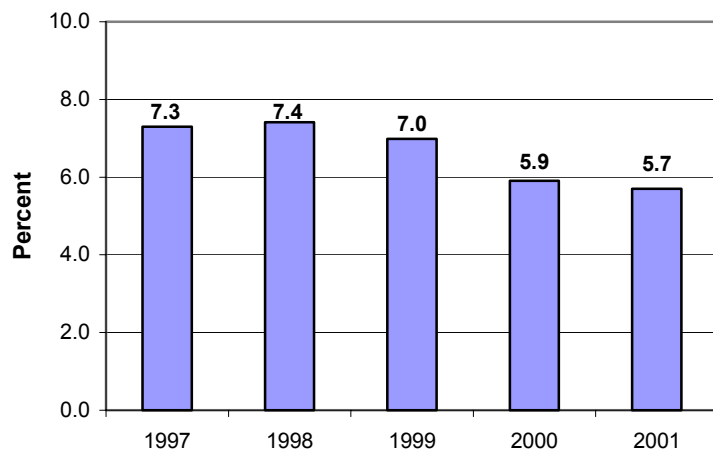


The percentage of multiple births for African American women increased from 3.3% to 4.7% from 2000 to 2001. Prior to 2001, White and African American women experienced comparable percentages of multiple births compared to all other race/ethnicity groups over the years (see Figure 47). Hispanic and Native American women experienced the lowest percentages of multiple births.

B. NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE

During 2001, 3,173 newborn babies were placed in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), representing 5.7% of all births. The percent of newborns that were placed in the NICU decreased from a high of 7.4% in 1998 to 5.7% in 2001 (see Figure 48). The number of babies enrolled in the Office of Women and Children's Health Newborn Intensive Care Program (NICP) for the year 2000 was 3,002¹⁵.

Figure 48. Percent of Newborns Transferred to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2001



C. MATERNAL AND NEWBORN TRANSFERS

Maternal and newborn transfers between facilities suggest that the necessary level of care was not available at the delivery facility. Whenever possible, it is preferable to send mothers to an appropriate level facility before giving birth. In 2001, 1,120 infants were transferred from one facility to another (2.0%). Mothers transferred from one facility to another represented 0.4% (202) of women who gave birth (see Figure 49).

Figure 49. Percent of Mothers and Newborns Transferred to Another Facility, Maricopa County, AZ 1999-2001

